



Colorado - Independence Pass Fall Colors Bike Tour

Explore fall colors with this Independence Pass Road Bike Tour. Cover over 85 miles by bike, traversing through the highest paved crossing of the Continental Divide in North America. By day, we will bike the Highway 82 corridor, lined with shimmering, golden aspen trees, inspiring high altitude mountains, and lush alpine tundra on this 4-day road-bike tour.

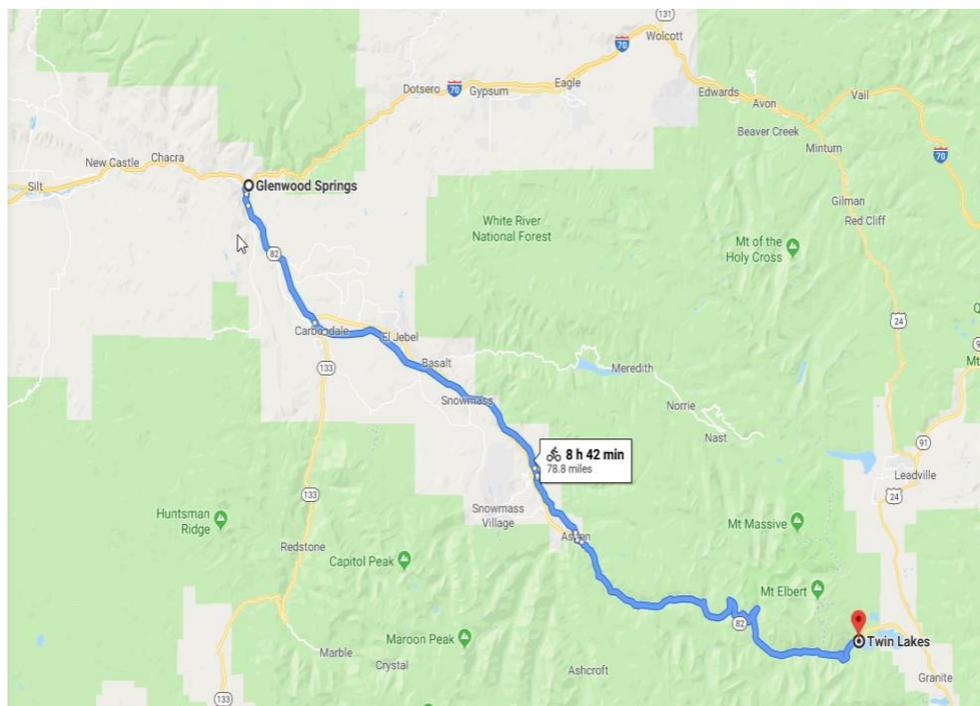
Starting at Glenwood Springs, and ending at Twin Lakes after climbing the legendary Independence Pass, we will bike the whole Highway 82, stopping for sightseeing and accommodations in Basalt, Aspen, and Twin Lakes!

October 3 - October 6, 2019



Explore fall colors with this Independence Pass Road Bike Tour. Cover over 85 miles by bike, traversing through the highest paved crossing of the Continental Divide in North America: Independence Pass. By day, we will bike the Highway 82 corridor, lined with shimmering, golden aspen trees, inspiring high altitude mountains, and lush alpine tundra on this 4-day supported road-bike tour. Starting at Glenwood Springs and travelling through the Roaring Fork Valley, we will road bike the whole Highway 82, stopping for sightseeing, delicious food, and charming lodging in Basalt, Aspen, and Twin Lakes! Join us for an unforgettable human-powered journey to celebrate the magic and breathtaking beauty that is Colorado fall foliage!

Trip Overview



Colorado - Independence Pass Fall Colors Bike Tour

- Day 1** Carpool to Glenwood Springs. Depart by bike for Carbondale. Explore Carbondale. Continue onto Basalt where we have lodging and delicious dinner.
- Day 2** Depart for Aspen by bike. Explore and hike (optional) in Aspen. Dine together at a tavern. Then, sleep at our St. Moritz hotel.
- Day 3** Depart for Independence Pass! Lunch at the Continental Divide on top. Descend to Twin Lakes, where we celebrate at the saloon at our darling lodge.
- Day 4** Leisurely wake up. Shuttle back to Glenwood Springs. Drive home!



Major Sites



Aspen Trees

We will be biking through a corridor of Aspen trees at the height of fall colors. Colorado aspens are famous in fall for being spectacular shades of gold and yellow, and Colorado is home to the largest number of Aspen trees in North America. The state has five different climate zones, meaning Colorado has one of the most extended periods of autumn colors of any state in the US. The height of the color among the aspens is between late September through early October, so we will be getting to see the fall foliage at its peak!

Independence Pass

Independence Pass is an incredibly famous pass on a paved Highway in Colorado. It is at an elevation of 12,095 feet on the Continental Divide in the Sawatch Range of the Rocky Mountains. The pass is midway between Aspen and Twin Lakes, on the border between Pitkin and Lake Counties. The pass is an incredibly popular destination in the summer, offering a scenic overlook near the pass that allows visitors to appreciate the alpine tundra environment above tree-line, take in excellent views of Mount Elbert (Colorado's highest peak), and recreate on the nearby trails, bouldering routes, and ski lines. Since 2011, the pass has been on the route of the USA Pro Cycling Challenge.



Aspen, CO

Located in Colorado's White River National Forest and surrounded by the grand majesty of the Elk Mountains, Aspen is a world-class ski resort town and a year-round destination for outdoor recreation. While known for up-scale restaurants and fancy boutiques, Aspen continues to grow its cultural institutions in the form of art, theater, music, and cognitive evolution. We get to explore this luxurious town amidst our grand tour of Highway 82.

Aspen Mountain

Aspen Mountain, known as Ajax by the locals, is a ski area just above the city of Aspen. It reaches an elevation of 11,212 feet and forms the end of Richmond Ridge, a long ridge that extends 10 miles south at approximately 11,000 feet to join the main spine of the Elk Mountains. It was founded in 1946 by Walter Paepcke, being the first of four ski area ventures of the Aspen Skiing Company. At only 673 acres, it's relatively small compared to other ski areas, especially compared to its counterpart, Snowmass Ski Area. However, it retains a unique cultural flavor that is reminiscent of the earlier days of recreational skiing in that state.



Detailed Itinerary

Day 1

Thursday
October 3

Start: Glenwood Springs
End: Basalt

We begin our trip at Woolly Mammoth Park N Ride at 9:00 am, where we meet to carpool to Glenwood Springs. Once we arrive at RFTA Park N Ride in Glenwood Springs, we will meet the group, check gear, and eat lunch. Then, we will set off for Carbondale by bike!

After our 12.5 mile to Carbondale, we will break there to explore, re-fuel, and hydrate before our last push to Basalt for the day. Once we reach Basalt after our 11-mile ride to Basalt, we will check into our cute little lodge, celebrate day 1 over some Mexican food, and rest up for Day 2!

Meals Included: Lunch, Dinner
Lodging: Lodge, Aspenalt Lodge



Starting the ride from Glenwood Springs to Carbondale



The colorful views of Carbondale, CO.

Day 2

Friday
October 4

Start: Basalt
End: Aspen

Wake up in beautiful Basalt and eat Breakfast, provided by our lodge. After packing up, we will ride 19.5 miles with 1,342 feet of gain getting us to gorgeous Aspen. Here, participants get to explore the darling mountain town. After participants have time to explore and find their own delicious lunch, there will be an optional hike up Aspen Mountain.

After enjoying the views, participants can either take the Gondola down back to town, or walk the rest of the way. After some downtime at our hotel in Aspen, the St. Moritz, we will meet for dinner at a local tavern, making our way back to our quarters afterward for some much needed rest.

Meals Included: Breakfast and Dinner (NOT LUNCH)
Lodging: Hotel, St. Moritz



Enjoy the breathtaking view from the Rio Grande Trail off of Basalt.



The views of the city of Aspen from Aspen Mountain.



Day 3

Saturday

October 5

Start: Aspen
End: Twin Lakes

Wake up to a yummy breakfast at our hotel. Then, head out for our legendary climb up Independence Pass! This ride to the top will be 20.1 miles with 4,186 feet of gain. Once we arrive at Independence Pass, we will snack, chill, and enjoy the gorgeous 360-degree views. Once we are re-energized, we will do a fun descent down to Twin Lakes, a cute little mountain town at the base of Mount Elbert. This descent is 17.2 miles with 2,881 feet of loss (7 feet of gain).

Once we arrive in Twin Lakes, there will be time to explore the beautiful lakes, re-hydrate at the local bar, and rest up at our Inn (Twin Lakes Inn & Saloon), enjoying the grand mountains around us. Once we are settled, we will have our final celebration dinner at the saloon, enjoying the last of the crisp mountain air and taking in the incredible memories.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner at the Saloon
Lodging: Inn, Twin Lakes Inn & Saloon



Enjoying the fall colors along the climb to Independence Pass.



The view of Independence Pass from Twin Lakes.

Day 4

Sunday

October 6

Start: Twin Lakes
End: Golden

After sleeping in a bit longer, we will enjoy a breakfast at the inn. Then, we will shuttle participants back to Glenwood Springs using our support van. Once loaded back into the carpool, we will head back to Golden on I-70. When we reach Woolly Mammoth Parking Lot, we will say our goodbyes, and head home! Thanks for a great trip!

Meals Included: Breakfast
Lodging: N/A



Taking advantage of the Twin Lakes!



Enjoying coffee and some breakfast from our cute quarters in Twin Lakes!



What's Included

- Guided tour of Highway 82
- Lodging for 3 nights
- 1 Lunch (first day)
- 3 Breakfasts
- 3 Dinners
- Support Van

What's NOT Included

- Lunch (except first day)
- Transportation to/from Glenwood Springs (carpool recommended)
- Bikes (road, electric, or mountain)
- Personal Bike Maintenance Tools
- Snacks

Trip Cost and Payment Information

CMC Members: \$666.00

Non Member: \$732.60

Single Supplement (if applicable): \$

Minimum Deposit: \$175

Final Payment Due By: 9/6/2019

Maximum # Participants: 8

Minimum # Participants: 6

CMC Deposit and Cancellation Policy:

1. Non-refundable Deposit: A non-refundable deposit is required to register for all trips.
2. All requests for cancellation must be submitted in writing to the trip leader.
3. Cancellations 90 or more prior to departure: All money paid will be refunded less the non-refundable deposit.
4. Cancellation on Day 30 or more prior to departure:
 - a. If a qualified, wait-listed, person is available to take a vacated slot and pays all money due, all payments made by the canceling party will be refunded less the nonrefundable deposit.
 - b. If no one is available to take a vacated slot, 50% of paid money will be refunded, less the non refundable deposit.
5. Cancellation on Day 29 or fewer days prior to departure: No refunds will be made.

The Colorado Mountain Club will make every effort to carry out this trip. However, if the trip is canceled by the CMC, all money collected from participants, including any "non-refundable deposit" shall be returned. Participant will not be reimbursed for any other purchase made for the trip or other expenses that the participant may have paid in association with this trip, which includes equipment purchase, airline cancellation penalties or medical inoculations.

Travel Information

Participants need to arrive in Golden, CO at the Woolly Mammoth Parking Lot no later than 9:00 am

Departures from Golden should be planned no later than 3:00 pm.

Trip Leader

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